

Hearing on “Water Sharing Conflicts and the Threat to International Peace” before the House Foreign Affairs Subcommittee on Europe, Eurasia and Emerging Threats, November 18, 2014

Biography on Dr. Kathleen Kuehnast

Dr. Kathleen Kuehnast is the Director of the Center for Gender and Peacebuilding at the United States Institute of Peace (USIP) where she focuses on the gendered impacts of conflict and post-conflict transition of both men and women. She is a socio-cultural anthropologist and an expert on the Central Asia country of Kyrgyzstan, where for over a decade she worked as a social scientist for the World Bank with a focus on Central Asia and conflict prevention.

Dr. Kuehnast co-edited the 2011 volume, *Women and War: Power and Protection in the 21st Century*, which focused on U.N. Resolution 1325 and the critical role women should play in peacebuilding. In addition to her expertise on conflict and gender, Dr. Kuehnast worked 15 years in the international development field, where her research included studies on community driven development, resource and border management issues, as well as migration and poverty impacts on gender roles. Dr. Kuehnast has written extensively on the impact of post-Soviet transition on Muslim women, including the co-edited volume, *Post-Soviet Women Encountering Transition: Nation Building, Economic Survival, and Civic Activism* (2004).

Dr. Kuehnast is a recipient of the Mellon Foreign Fellowship at the Library of Congress, and also a former fellow at the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars in the Kennan Institute for Advanced Russian Studies Program. She is a member of the Council on Foreign Relations. Kuehnast holds a doctorate degree in socio-cultural anthropology from the University of Minnesota.